

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, PINS,IT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL AND PRESS REACTION TO NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW
WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PIECZENIK

1. OFFICIAL ITALIAN REACTION TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEVE PIECZENIK'S INTERVIEW PUBLISHED
APRIL 23 IN NEW YORK TIMES ON MORO CASE WAS SWIFT IN ARRIVING.
PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S DEPLOMATIC ADVISER AND INTERIOR
MINISTER COSSIGA FORCEFULLY MADE CLEAR TO EMBOFF THEIR EXTREME
DISPLEASURE OVER CONTENT AND FACT OF INTERVIEW. INTERIOR MINISTER
COSSIGA HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF PIECZENIK'S
HIGHLY PROFESSIONL ASSISTANCE DURING LATTER'S VISIT HERE, AND HE
AS THERFORE ESPEICALLY DISTURBED
BY THE INTERVIEW WHICH HE VIEWED AS
BREAKING THE PLEDGE OF CONFIDENTIALITY REGARDING
PIECZENIK'S MISSION JUST AT PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE MOMENT
IN THE MOR CASE.

2. AFTERTELEPHONECONSULTATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT,
EMBOFFS ASSURED PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER
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AND INTERIOR MINISTER THAT PIECZENIK INTERVIEW HAD NOT
BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE USG, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER
INTERVIEWS OR COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT FROM USG OFFICIALS
AND THAT INQUIRIES FROMTHE PRESS WOULD BE REFERRED TO
THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

3. ITALIAN MEDIA PLAY FROM APRIL 23-25 OF PEICZENIK

INTERVIEW INCLUDED ARTICLES IN LEADING NATIONAL NEWS-PAPERS SUCH AS CORRIERE DELLA SERA, IL GIORNO, IL TEMPO, LA NAZIONE, IL MESSAGERO, AND L'UNITA/ AND TV AND READIO NEWS COMMENT. LEFT-LEANING IL MESSAGERO WAS AMONG MOST MISCHIEVOUS, HINTING THAT IF DR. PEICZENIK HAD ATTENDED ITALIAN CABINET MEETING AS STATED IN NY TIMES ARTICLE, SIGNIFICANT BREACH OF CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE HAD OCCURRED. COMMUNIST L'UNITA STATED THAT DR. PIECZENIK WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN INTERVIEW WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. CONTINUING FLOW OF DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS IN MORO CASE UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED TO DIVERT PRESS ATTENTION ON SUCCEEDING DAYS, AND COMMENT ON INTERVIEW SEEMS TO HAVE ENDED, GARDNER

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